

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

1-10-2020

Bibliographic Mapping of Open Access Google Books on Peace and War

Bisma Bashir

University of Kashmir, bismabashir53@gmail.com

Nahida Nasreen

University of Kashmir, ifrafayaz1414@gmail.com

Fayaz Ahmad Loan

University of Kashmir, fayazlib@yahoo.co.in

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Bashir, Bisma; Nasreen, Nahida; and Loan, Fayaz Ahmad, "Bibliographic Mapping of Open Access Google Books on Peace and War" (2020). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 3853.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/3853>

Bibliographic Mapping of Open Access Google Books on Peace and War

Bisma Bashir

Ph.D. Scholar

Centre of Central Asian Studies

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

E-mail: bismabashir53@gmail.com

Nahida Nasreen

Ph.D. Scholar

Centre of Central Asian Studies

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

E-mail: ifrafayaz1414@gmail.com

Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Loan

Centre of Central Asian Studies

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Corresponding author E-mail: fayazlib@yahoo.co.in

ABSTRACT

The study is an attempt to identify the bibliometric facets of Free Google Books like collection size, authorship patterns, time-series, and publishing bodies on 'Peace' and 'War'. The Google Book archive was searched using two search terms 'Peace' and 'War' in advanced search mode. The search was executed on free Google books during the month of January 2019. Bibliographical details of all the hits (results) retrieved were collected, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted to reveal results. Google Books retrieved 566 e-books on 'Peace' out of these, 173 (30.56%) e-books are available in full view whereas 517 e-books were available on "War" out of these 193 (37.33%) e-books are available in full view. The majority of books published during the 19th century are archived by the Google as these were free from the copyright restrictions. Large numbers of Google Books are written by single authors on War (153, 79.24) as well as on Peace (116, 67.05). However, corporate bodies have also contributed significantly in Peace publications (19, 10.98) as well. All sorts of publishers' commercial, governmental, non-profit societies and even individual publishers including authors have contributed to publishing activities on Peace and War. A good number of books on Peace (171) and War (174) aren't reviewed by users and till date, only 21 books have been reviewed by users. Among the reviewed books, almost 50% of the books on Peace and War have received 5-star ranking.

Keywords- Google Books, Google Print, Free Google Books, Open Access Google Books

Paper Type- Research Paper

1. INTRODUCTION

Google has acquired a reputation as one of the most popular and leading search engines (Dwyer, 2016). Google search engine is attaining increasing popularity not only among academic communities but also among students as it plays an important role in information retrieval. In addition to its dominance in general searching on the web, Google has been persistently creating new services such as Google Scholar and Google Books to include special contents (Jamali & Asadi, 2010).

'Google Books' is the pioneer tech company Google Inc.'s most ambitious library project of digitizing all the books in the world and making them available to everyone over the Web (Miller, 2010). As of now millions of books have been scanned and are searchable through the website. Google aims at making this extraordinary project, the largest assemblage of books online. Google Books allows users to view all the pages from out of copyright books or from copyrighted books if the copyright owner has given permission. If the book is still under copyright and no permission is granted from the copyright owner, a user can see "snippets" of the text. In general, Google Books provides a user with four access levels-

Full view: Books in the public domain are available for "full view" and are downloadable for free.

Preview: For books-in-print where permission has been granted, the number of viewable pages is limited to a "preview". Users can not copy, download or print these book previews.

Snippet view: only two to three lines of text surrounding the queried search term is displayed in cases where Google does not have the permission of the copyright owner to display a preview.

No preview: Google also displays search results for those books that have not been digitized. Google books are scanned copies of original books, their text is not searchable but metadata information such as the title, author, publisher, number of pages, ISBN, subject and copyright information, and in some cases, a table of contents and book summary is available (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Books). However, Google also provides also access to digital-born books and these are searchable up to text level.

1.1 Historical Glimpse

The history of the project dates back to the time when Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page were graduate computer science students working on a research project with the big idea of digitizing and connecting vast collections of books in the future world. In 2002, the project began under the codename 'Project Ocean', an experiment which led to the finding that it takes a full 40 minutes to digitize a 300-page book. In October 2004, Larry and Sergey announced project "Google Print" at the 'Frankfurt Book Fair' in Germany. The first publishers to join the program were Blackwell, Cambridge University Press, University of Chicago Press. In 2005, Google renamed 'Google Print' as 'Google Books'. By 2007 new options like: 'About this book', 'My library', 'Popular passages', 'Download a PDF' and many more were added (**Google Books History, 2019**). The Google Books initiative has been hailed for its potential to offer unprecedented access to what may become the largest online body of knowledge and promoting the democratization of knowledge. However, it has also been criticized for potential copyright violations (**Herwig, 2007**). Today, the project is in legal limbo. On one hand, Google has scanned an impressive 30 million volumes putting it in a league with the world's largest libraries (the library of Congress has around 37 million books). That is a serious accomplishment (**WU, 2015**). But copyright holders and the authors were far from pleased. Not only were they not being compensated for their work, but Google launched the project without even seeking permission from them (**Dylan, 2015**). This led to the involvement of the Google books project into a number of legal battles.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

From the very beginning of the Google Books project, Google representatives have been speaking very highly of its ability to democratise access to human knowledge and to place hundreds of millions of books onto the fingertips of readers who might otherwise have never even dreamt of such access to knowledge (**as cited in Jones & Janes, 2010**). At the time of conception of Google Books, Google asserted to scan all the 129 million books published in the world by 2020 (**Jackson, 2010**). Experts were of the opinion that by means of this digitization project, Google is at the verge of replacing traditional libraries and even bookstores, given it continues to digitize books in such masses. Yet the reality is quite different, the number of full-text books available is rather very limited (**Oberhelman, 2008**). As per a critique published by **Nunberg (2009)** on Google Books in the Chronicle of Higher Education, the number of Google Books in the public domain is only 15 percent of the total. Google books project mostly digitizes copyright-free books, books mostly published at the

time when copyright laws were not enacted i.e. pre-1923 in United States (**McShane, 2007**). While comparing the contents of Google Books and WorldCat from late 2010 to early 2011 **Chen (2012)** found that there were hardly any WorldCat books that Google Books could not retrieve. He established that in addition to indexing all the books of which Google Books has acquired digital copies, it has records of books which it does not hold in digital form. He further concluded that Google Books can retrieve some old or rare books possessed by a single library in the world, even when those libraries are not associated with it in any way. His major findings also revealed that less than 10 percent of 'Google Books' collection has free full views, and about 15 percent have snippet view and previews, respectively.

Johnson (2009) collected 87 core clinical textbooks on the 2003 Brandon-Hill list and executed the search on those titles for the most recent editions on Google Books. He retrieved all 87 titles and 84 out of those titles possessed the recent editions, however, none among those latest editions had a full display.

A study conducted by **James (2010)** reported the legibility of texts scanned by Google Books. He established that among 2500 pages reviewed from the randomly selected books 1% of pages had errors that affected their legibility. He further suggested that while Google Books is not perfect, the majority of texts sampled were legible. Another study conducted by **James and Weiss (2012)** reported error rates found in the metadata records of texts scanned by the Google Books digitization project. A review of the title, author, publisher, and publication year metadata elements for 400 randomly selected Google Books records was undertaken. The results showed 36% of sampled books in the project contained metadata errors. The authors further found that the error rate in Google Books metadata is higher than one would expect to find in a typical library online catalogue.

Conway (2013) sampled serials and English-language books published before 1923 that were scanned and processed by Google between 2004 and 2010. He proposed that the imperfection of digital surrogates is almost a ubiquitous feature of Google Books and that such imperfection has become and will remain firmly positioned in collaborative preservation repositories.

In 2005 a case was filed by the Authors Guild, an association of writers who accused Google of digitally copying millions of books for an online library without permission (**Liptak & Alter, 2016**). As a result, Google temporarily stopped digitizing copyrighted works to allow copyright owners to submit lists of books they wished to be excluded from the project (**kane**

2005). After a long-running faceoff between the US Authors Guild and Google, the New York court dismissed the lawsuit in 2016 (Liptak & Alter, 2016).

3. RESEARCH DESIGN

3.1. Objectives

The study is an attempt to identify the bibliometric facets of Google Books like collection size, authorship patterns, time-series, and publishing bodies on ‘Peace’ and ‘War’.

3.2. Methodology

The terms “Peace” and “War” were searched on Google Books during the month of January 2019 and all the bibliographic details of the search results like publishers, date of publication, authorship information, ISBN and review status, etc. were collected, tabulated and interpreted to reveal results.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

4.1. Accessibility Options

Google Books retrieved 566 e-books on ‘Peace’ out of these, 173 (30.56%) e-books are available in full view whereas 517 e-books were available on “War” out of these 193 (37.33%) e-books are available in full view (Figure. 1). For rest of the books, only preview, snippet view and sometimes no preview is available at all. Full view means that these e-books in the public domain and can be read from cover to cover.

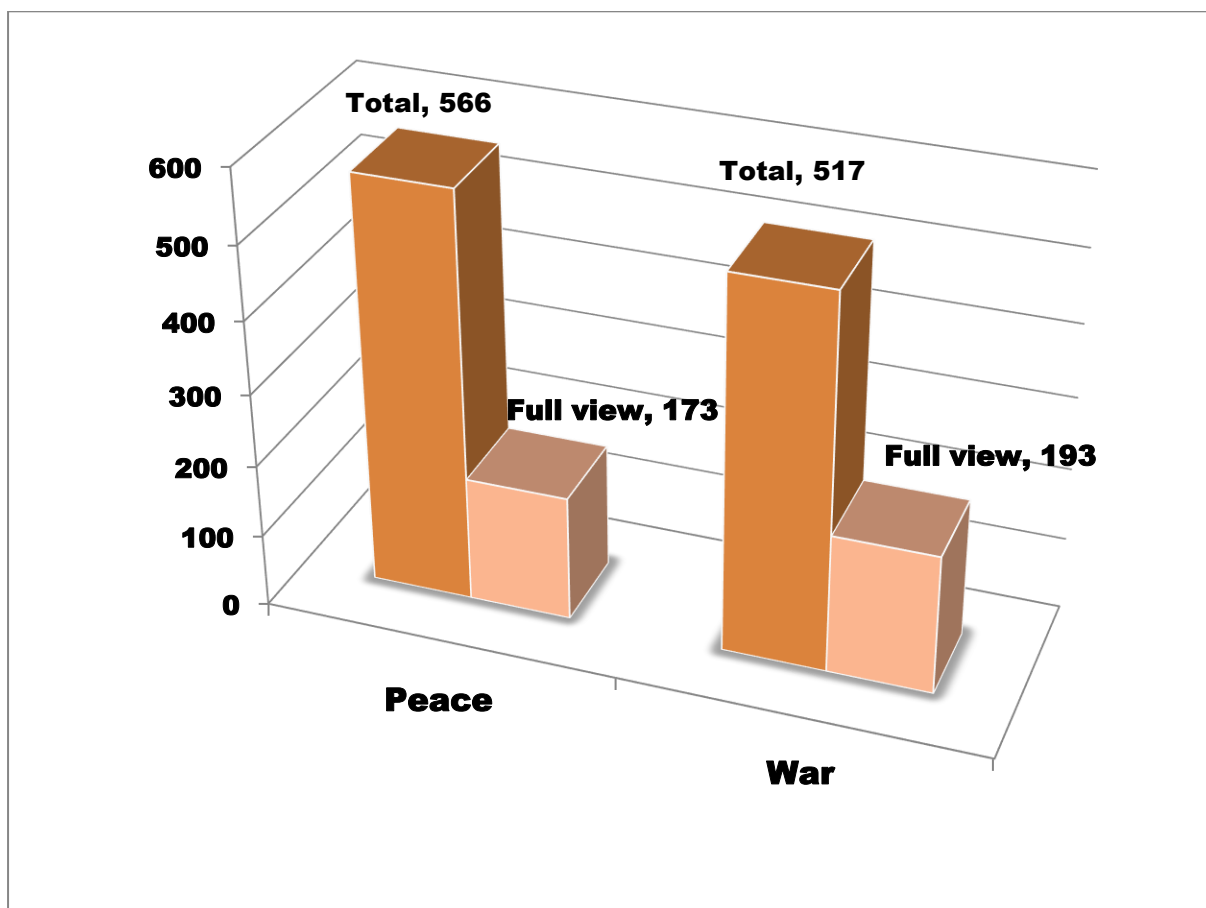


Figure 1: Accessibility options of the Google Books

4.2. Time-Series Analysis

A good number of books on Peace (53, 30.64%) and War (30, 15.54%) published before 1800 are available in Google Books. However, majority of Google Books published during the first half of the 19th century are archived by the Google as 42.20% (73) books on Peace and 44.04% (85) books on War published during 1801-1850 are available. The trend continues in the second half of the 19th century as well where 46 (26.59%) on Peace and 75 (38.86%) on War are available. However, only one (1, 0.58%) book on Peace and three (3, 1.55%) books on War are available which were published after 1900 (Table 1).

Table 1: Time-series analysis of e-books

Date	Peace	War
Before 1800	53 (30.64)	30 (15.54)
1801-1850	73 (42.20)	85 (44.04)
1851-1900	46 (26.59)	75 (38.86)

After 1900	01(0.58)	03 (1.55)
Total	173	193

Note: Figures in the parentheses is percentage

4.3. Authorship Trends

Large numbers of Google Books are written by a single author on War (153, 79.24) as well as Peace (116, 67.05). However, corporate bodies have also contributed significantly in Peace publications (19, 10.98) as well (Table 2).

Table 2: Authorship Trends of e-books

Author	Peace	War
One author	116 (67.05)	153 (79.24)
Two authors	9 (5.20)	7 (3.63)
Three authors	4 (2.31)	1 (0.52)
More than 3 authors	1 (0.58)	0 (0.0)
Corporate Body	19 (10.98)	5 (2.59)
Not available	24 (13.87)	27 (13.99)
Total	173	193

Note: Figures in the parentheses is percentage

4.4. Publishing Bodies

The most prominent publishers on Peace are Henry Lintot with six (6) publications followed by American Peace Society and J Murray with four (4) publications each whereas the U. S. Govt. leads in publishing on War with seven (7) publications followed by R Bently with six (6) and J. Murray with 5 publications respectively. Collectively, J Murray leads with nine (9) publications on Peace and War (Table 3).

Table 3: Publishing Bodies of e-books

Peace		War	
Publisher	Number	Publisher	Number
Henry Lintot	6 (3.47)	U.S. Govt Printing Office	7 (3.63)
American Peace Society	4 (2.31)	R Bently	6 (3.11)
J Murray	4 (2.31)	J Murray	5 (2.59)
J Debrett	3 (1.73)	Longman Green	4 (2.07)

Tauchnitz	3 (1.73)	American Peace Society	3 (1.55)
J Roberts	3 (1.73)	W H Allen	3 (1.55)
G Routledge & Company	2 (1.16)	Richardson	3 (1.55)
Others	148 (85.55)	Others	162 (83.94)

Note: Figures in the parentheses is percentage

4.5. ISBN information

More than half (99 out of 173) of the available relevant e-books on 'Peace' don't have ISBN information whereas more than half (101 out of 193) of the e-books on 'War' have ISBN (Table 4).

Table 4: ISBN of e-books

Type	Peace	War
ISBN	74 (42.77)	101 (52.33)
Non-ISBN	99 (57.22)	92 (47.67)
Total	173	193

Note: Figures in the parentheses is percentage

4.6. Reviewed Status

A good number of books on Peace (171) and War (174) aren't reviewed by any user yet and till date, only 21 books have been reviewed by users. Among the reviewed books, almost 50% of the books on Peace and War have received 5-star ranking besides more than 10% of the books on War have received four stars and 31.57% three stars respectively (Table 5).

Table 5: Review Status of e-books

Reviewed Status	Peace	War
Not-reviewed	171 (98)	174 (90.15)
Reviewed	2 (1.16)	19 (9.85)
One Star	1 (50)	2 (10.53)
Two Stars	0	0
Three Stars	0	6 (31.57)
Four Stars	0	2 (10.53)
Five Stars	1 (50%)	9 (47.37)
Total	173	193

Note: Figures in the parentheses is percentage

5. DISCUSSION

Google Books retrieved 566 e-books on 'Peace' and 517 e-books on War but only 173 (30.56%) e-books on Peace and 193 (37.33%) on War are available in full view. For rest of the books, only preview, snippet view and sometimes no preview is available at all. Google Books in full view are in the public domain and can be read from cover to cover. These books can be downloaded in by the users if the options are available. Google Books probably indexes books that it does not possess in digital form, in addition to indexing all the books that it has acquired in digital form (**Chen, 2012**). Besides, the legal issues like copyright problems hinder Google to digitize the books fully. Most of the Free Google Books on Peace and War were published before the 19th century whereas only four (4) Books were published after 1900. It is clear that after the 19th century, there is a sharp decline in the availability of Free Google Books. This could be due to the fact that Google Books project mostly digitizes copyright-free books, books mostly published at the time when copyright laws were not enacted i.e. pre-1923 in United States (**McShane, 2007**). This explains why most of the books present in Google Books are from the 19th century. Large numbers of Google Books are written by a single author on War (153, 79.24) as well as Peace (116, 67.05) and a significant contribution is from corporate bodies in Peace publications (19, 10.98) as well. The finding slightly varies with the study by **Loan (2012)** revealing that the prominent authors of Free Google Books on 'Terrorism' are the corporate bodies of the United States. However, the collaboration among the publications isn't so healthy, possibly the authors weren't so well connected in the 19th century as in the 20th and 21st centuries. All sorts of publishers private (commercial) like Henry Lintot, public (government) like U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Societies (non-profit) like American Peace Society and even individual publishers like authors have contributed to publishing activities on Peace and War which is a good sign. Book reviews being a valuable service helps an author with a lot of constructive criticism. The author can take these feedbacks and further improve their work if they prefer to do so. However, the above data depict that only 02 books on peace and 22 books on war were reviewed by the users so far and an extensive number of the books weren't reviewed by any user yet, which is a great matter of concern. The Google Books is a treasure trove under the fingertips of users but it seems that very few people read these books and review them. The need is to apply marketing strategies for their publicity. The library websites must give external links to Google Scholar as well as Google Book so that these books can be connected with the users. However, it is a matter of pride that these books are very qualitative

in nature as almost 50% of the books on Peace and War have received 5-star ranking besides more than 10% of the books on War have received four stars and 31.57% three stars respectively. Star rankings matter a lot. It gives an overall measure of quality and performance. Thus, there is no question of the quality and standard of the e-books offered by the platform.

6. CONCLUSION

The idea of a comprehensive, free and globally accessible digital collection of world's books placed on one platform is quite fascinating. By virtue of large-scale book digitization projects like the Million Books Project, the Open Content Alliance, and most notably, the Google Books project, this dream is turning into reality. Google books project among others has the capacity to change the shape and nature of reading worldwide. Google Books has revolutionized the accessibility of books. Further, this accessibility helps books to find new audiences and brings book-based information at par with other variable formats and types of information available online. Books that were restricted to a single library and users of that library only now have universal audiences. On one hand the Project has the positive potential to act as a transforming agent, in learning, teaching and research as well as many other activities, however, there are many negative aspects also. Experts from around the world have justifiable concerns about the privacy and copyright violations, apart from many data variations and data redundancy in its collection. Thus, Google should take steps to improve reader privacy protections and work on other problems related to its collection as well. To sum up, Google Books has amazing positive potential and that potential is worth saving.

REFERENCES

- Chen, X. (2012). Google Books and WorldCat: A comparison of their content. *Online Information Review*, 36(4), 507-516. DOI:10.1108/14684521211254031
- Conway, P. (2013). Preserving imperfection: Assessing the incidence of digital imaging error in HathiTrust. *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture*, 42(1), 17-30. DOI: 10.1515/pdtc-2013-0003
- Dwyer, D. (2016). Top 12 best search engines in the world. Retrieved January 29, 2019 from: <https://www.inspire.scot/blog/2016/11/11/top-12-best-search-engines-in-the-world238>

- Dylan, L. (2015). An Inside Look At One Of Google's Most Controversial Projects. Retrieved January 29, 2019 from: <https://www.businessinsider.com.au/google-books-2013-12>
- Google Books History. (n.d.). *Google Books*. Retrieved February 9, 2019 from: <https://books.google.com/googlebooks/about/history.html>
- Herwig, M. (2007). Google's Total Library: Putting The World's Books On The Web. Retrieved February 9, 2019 from: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/google-s-total-library-putting-the-world-s-books-on-the-web-a-473529.html>
- Jackson, J. (2010). Google: 129 Million Different Books Have Been Published. Retrieved February 9, 2019 from: https://www.pcworld.com/article/202803/google_129_million_different_books_have_been_published.html
- Jamali, H. R. and Asadi, S. (2010). Google and the scholar: the role of Google in scientists' information-seeking behavior. *Online Information Review*, 34(2), 282-294. Retrieved from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/220207532_Google_and_the_scholar_The_role_of_Google_in_scientists'_information-seeking_behaviour
- James, R. (2010). An assessment of the legibility of Google Books. *Journal of access services*, 7(4), 223-228. DOI: 10.1080/15367967.2010.503486
- James, R. and Weiss, A. (2012). An assessment of Google Books' metadata. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 12(1), 15-22. DOI: 10.1080/19386389.2012.652566
- Johnson, E. D. (2009). Google Book Search coverage of core clinical textbooks. In *Positioning the Profession: The Tenth International Congress on Medical Librarianship*, 1-8. Retrieved from: <https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=U9UT1BgAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=sra>
- Jones, E. A., & Janes, J. W. (2010). Anonymity in a World of Digital Books: Google Books, Privacy, and the Freedom to Read. *Policy & Internet*, 2(4), 43-75. Retrieved from: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2202/1944-2866.1072>
- Kane, M. (2005). Google pauses library project. Retrieved February 9, 2019 from: <https://www.cnet.com/news/google-pauses-library-project/>
- Liptak, A. & Alter, A. (2016). Challenge to Google Books is declined by Supreme Court. Retrieved February 9, 2019 from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/19/technology/google-books-case.html>

- Loan, F. A. (2012). Full text e-book collection on Terrorism in Google Books. *Trends and Developments in Library and Information Science*. Retrieved from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327571755_Full_text_ebook_collection_on_Terrorism_in_Google_Books
- McShane, C. (2007). Google books. *The Journal of Transport History*, 28(2), 319-325, Retrieved from: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.7227/TJTH.28.2.15?mimetype=application%2Fpdf&crawler=true>
- Miller, L. (2010). The trouble with Google Books. Retrieved February 9, 2019 from: https://www.salon.com/2010/09/09/google_books/
- Nunberg, G. (2009). Google's Book Search: A Disaster for Scholars. Retrieved February 9, 2019 from: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Googles-Book-Search-A/48245>
- Oberhelman, D. D. (2008). Google Book Search. *Reference Reviews*, 22(3), 7-8. Retrieved from: <https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/abs/10.1108/09504120810859594>
- Wu, T. (2015). What ever Happened to Google books?. Retrieved February 9, 2019 from: <https://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/what-ever-happened-to-google-books>